

GERMAN LUSITANIA OFFER IS ACCEPTED, WITH RESERVATIONS

United States Still Insists Armed Ships Be Warned Pending Adjustment.

Secretary Lansing today accepted the Lusitania agreement as acceptable to the United States in so far as it relates to that case, but asked Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, for assurances that Germany will not carry its policy of sinking merchant ships without warning to liners, even if they carry defensive armament.

The question of what constitutes defensive armament is to be determined later, in a way not yet agreed upon. It is suggested that the United States may propose that guns mounted on the stern of ships and capable of being swung from fifteen to thirty degrees in either direction might come within that class.

Germany May Not Agree.

It was stated authoritatively that Germany, because of its unusual position, cannot and will not accept the suggestion of the United States as it now stands that liners carrying arms shall be immune from attack under previous assurances.

Secretary Lansing explained fully to the ambassador the position of the United States in the light of the new developments and is understood to have told him that while Germany's position is recognized as well founded, the United States must insist that Germany conform all her practices to international law, inasmuch as the entente allies have declined to make any changes.

The Lusitania agreement will be kept by Secretary Lansing and later will be published with the assurances which the United States has given to Germany covering the points brought up by the new submarine campaign.

Embodied in Separate Note.

The new assurances, if they are given, would be embodied in a separate note. Meanwhile, it was said the United States would make efforts to have the entente allies agree not to put guns of any kind on passenger-carrying liners, and in turn would expect assurances from Germany for their safety.

It was understood that the principal question by the United States in accepting the Lusitania agreement as governing the future was that it merely referred to the assurances previously given that unsinking liners would not be sunk without warning, but did not actually embody or reiterate them. Ambassador von Bernstorff, when he returned to his embassy, sent a long dispatch to his government setting forth fully the position of the United States as Secretary Lansing had outlined it to him.

Will Study the Appendices.

Secretary Lansing said today that before the State Department came to a conclusion on the effect of the new submarine announcement it wanted to study the appendices attached to the notification which were coming by mail. The appendices contain descriptions of alleged attacks on submarines by merchant ships and a copy of the so-called secret British admiralty instructions to masters to destroy submarines when possible.

The department wants to examine the appendices, also in relation to assurances given to the United States by the entente allies that liners sailing from American ports would be immune from attack.

German officials here came to the conclusion today that the State Department considers that their new memorandum has upset to some extent the question of reprisals in the war zone about the British Isles and also that of cruiser warfare in the North Sea.

American officials expressed the opinion that the submarine controversy with Germany cannot be closed until assurances are given that the safety of neutrals and non-combatants at sea has not been altered by the latest German declarations. They fear that the United States is confronted with a long series of diplomatic explanations and that the situation is where it was several weeks ago, when it was described as "grave."

Unable to Grasp U. S. Attitude.

German diplomatic circles here seem to be unable to understand the attitude of the State Department. It was insisted that the German and the Austrian memoranda regarding the intention to sink armed merchant ships were prompted by the American memorandum and that they had no other basis. The central powers never would have made their announcement if they had understood what the situation should be, because they understood the situation all along were conducted as applying to unarmed ships. It was established after the sinking that the Lusitania bore no armament.

There is no indication that the instructions under which American port authorities are operating will be changed in the immediate future. The recent American circular note to the entente powers proposing disarmament of merchant ships is not regarded by State Department officials as in any way involving an abandonment by the United States of its contention that the belligerents should adhere to existing principles of international law in submarine warfare.

PROTESTS POUR IN TO WHITE HOUSE

Hundreds of Telegrams From All Over Country Denounce Power Plant Site.

FIGHT WILL BE PRESSED BY SENATOR NEWLANDS

To Push His Resolution to Prevent Construction—New York Artists to Voice Protest.

Hundreds of telegrams from all over the country, from organizations of artists, architects and individuals, are being received at the White House and by prominent members of Congress protesting against the location of the central heat, light and power plant at 14th and Water streets southwest. This is part of a nation-wide campaign against the proposed location.

Senator Newlands says he has by no means abandoned the fight to prevent the construction of the proposed government central power plant, and that he intended to ask the Senate library committee to report favorably his resolution not pending before the committee which would prevent the construction of the plant until the plans had been approved by the fine arts commission and the President.

Senator Newlands is in New Haven to address the New Haven Chamber of Commerce. As soon as he returns he proposes to seek action on his power plant resolution.

New York Artists to Protest.

Sixteen societies in the Fine Arts Federation of New York are to meet next Wednesday night to draft resolutions of protest and to organize for participation in a nation-wide campaign in support of the fine arts commission, which has sent in official recommendations to the Treasury Department against the proposed location on the water front.

One of the messages of protest received at the White House is from Richard H. Hunt, president of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

"I expressed my views in the strongest terms possible," said Mr. Hunt, "and I think the plan is an outrage, and I said so in the telegram. They are planning to build a great big power plant on the river front in Washington, and the power house, if completed, will stand almost in the middle of it. I sincerely hope it will not be allowed."

The notice of the meeting of the Fine Arts Federation of New York was sent out yesterday by every representative entitled to attend. It was announced that the meeting would be held at the New York by the National Sculpture Society Tuesday night, at which its delegates would be instructed to join in the protest.

"Such giant chimney stacks, erected on the site selected, would be a disgrace," said Daniel F. French, honorary president of the National Sculpture Society, who preceded Herbert Adams as a member of the federal commission of fine arts. "I am thoroughly in sympathy with the protest against them."

To Urge Nation-Wide Protest.

Augustus Lukeman, one of those who voted to call the Fine Arts Federation together, announced that he would do all in his power to stir up a nation-wide campaign against the power house on the site selected for it.

"Italy," he said, "enjoyed a yearly income of \$50,000,000 from tourists who visited the country to see its art treasures. France had a yearly revenue of \$150,000,000 from tourists who came to see its art treasures. It is a shame that we should have a power house on the site of the Washington Monument. This whole thing is a disgrace and a disgrace to the work on the building should be stopped by all means, if there is any way to do so."

Several engineers interviewed renewed the suggestion that a way out of the impasse would be to put the system proposed opposite East Potomac park, one of them asserted.

"It would not cost as much to enlarge the power plant sufficiently to meet all the needs of the city as to put the system proposed opposite East Potomac park," one of them asserted.

"There are several other plans, all of which could be substituted for the one that has aroused so much discussion. I don't see why the administration insists on it."

CUT IN THE RATES FOR TAXI SERVICE

Terminal Company Voluntarily Lops \$10,000 From Its Yearly Revenues.

SCHEDULE OF CHARGES GETS COMMISSION'S O. K.

Ten Per Cent Profit Figured. Not Counting Commissions Paid to Hotels.

Reduced rates for taxi service were announced by the Terminal Taxicab Company. They have received the approval of the public utilities commission and will become operative April 1. This is the second instance of a voluntary reduction of rates being made by a local public utility on the basis of the valuation of its property as established by the public utilities commission. The first case of this character was the recent reduction of certain telephone rates, the property of the telephone company being the first to be valued by the commission.

It is estimated that the action of the Terminal Taxicab Company will result in reducing its gross revenues nearly \$10,000 a year.

The company's present rates, one to five passengers, are 50 cents for the first half mile and 10 cents for each quarter of a mile thereafter.

Schedule of New Rates.

The new rates for metered service will be: For one passenger, 30 cents for the first half mile, and 10 cents for each quarter mile thereafter, and 20 cents additional per trip for each of the second and third passengers, and no additional charge for passengers above three.

In accepting the new schedule, the commission ruled that the payment by taxis of commissions to hotels, clubs, etc., on business obtained through such establishments is not a proper operating expense in computing net earnings for rate making purposes.

The value of the property of the Terminal Taxicab Company, as established by the commission on April 2, 1915, is \$225,000. This value brought up to date is given at \$275,500. The commission states that the amount of \$215,244 represents the fair value assignable to public service business, and that records kept by the utility company in question show that the new rates probably will produce a return of 10 per cent on this amount.

Ten Per Cent Fair Return.

The commission has informed the company it is of the opinion that 10 per cent is a fair and reasonable rate of return for this class of business, due to the fact that the taxicab business is comparatively new, and its future therefore not so certain as older classes of public service, and due to the further fact that the new rates will be subject to wide variations in volume of business resulting from financial and other conditions.

According to figures made public by the commission, the company's gross revenues under the present rates for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1915, amounted to \$225,342.14. It is estimated that the new rates will produce a return of \$215,244, or a reduction in gross revenue of 4 1-5 per cent.

Statement by Commission.

The commission's statement continues: "Figuring the commissions paid out by the company as a part of the operating expenses, the company's return under the present rates (gross revenue less operating expenses and taxes) amounted to \$15,667.19, a return of 6.37 per cent on the fair value of the company. It is estimated that the new rates will amount to \$200,000, a return of 2 1-2 per cent on the fair value of the company."

"Excluding commissions from operating expenses, the company's return under the present rates would be \$38,945.30, a return of 14 1-2 per cent on the fair value of the company. It is estimated that the new rates will amount to \$27,400.00, a return of about 10 per cent on the fair value of the company."

With the object of reducing rates, the company, according to statements by its officers, intended to reduce the number of trips and the revenues therefrom with one, two, three, four and five passengers, respectively, per trip.

Three Plans Proposed.

After testing different rates by the statistics compiled, the company proposed three plans to the commission. The first plan is the one that has been accepted. The other two called for 30 cents for the first half mile and 10 cents per quarter of a mile thereafter for one passenger, with 20 cents additional per trip for each of the second, third and fourth passengers, and the same additional charge for each of the second, third, fourth and fifth passengers.

The company looked with most favor on the scheme which the commission has adopted, although the loss in revenue under the other plans, it was stated, would have been less.

According to officials of the company, the new rates are based on the theory that the thing to be retained in taxi service is a reduction in the cost of the service of one-passenger traveling alone. While the loss in revenue under the new rates, it is stated, will be approximately \$10,000 a year, the company expects that the reduction will stimulate additional business.

It is understood that the Federal Taxicab Commission will accept the new rates as soon as its meters can be adjusted.

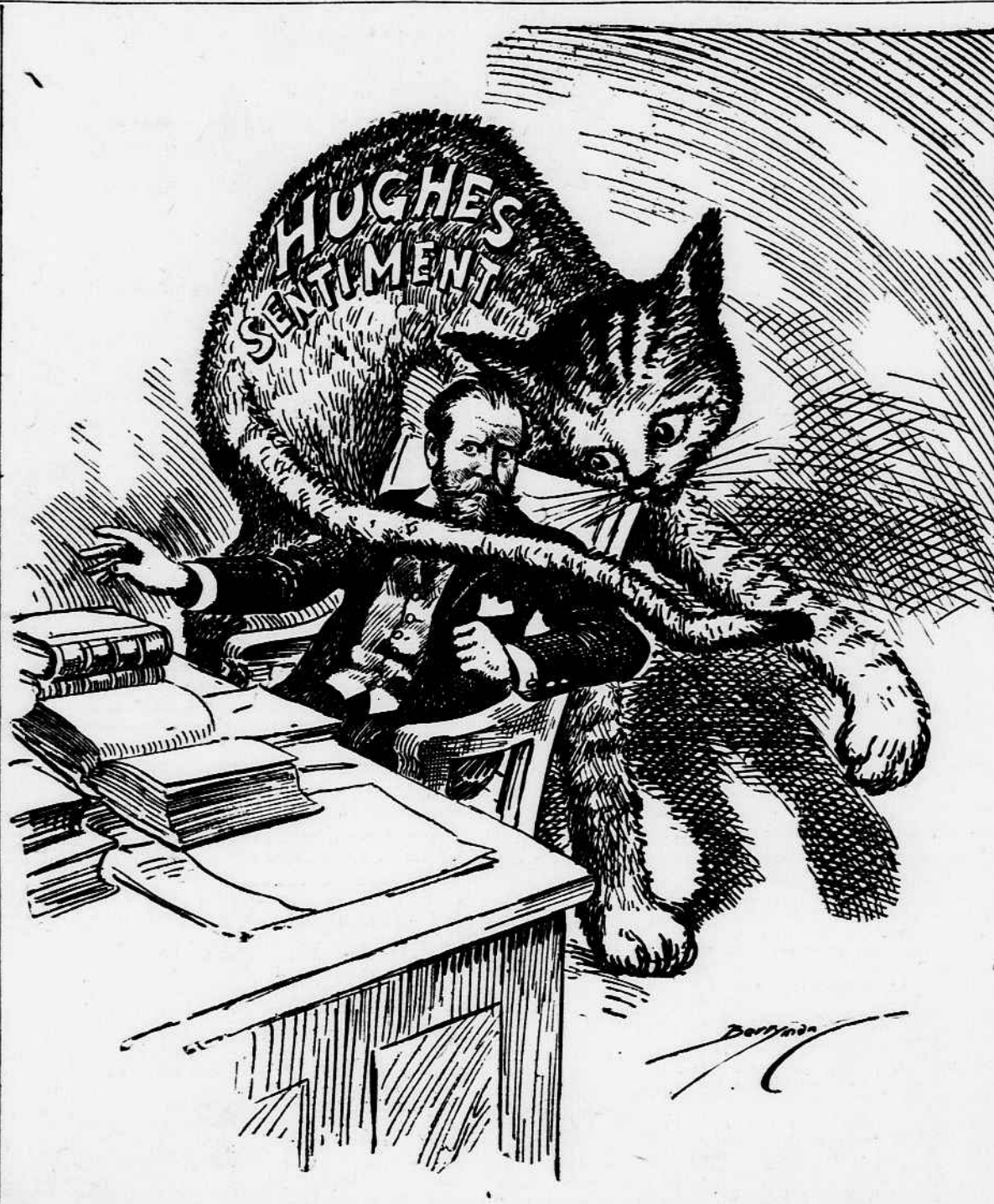
AUSTRIAN NOTICE RECEIVED.

State Department Gets Data in Regard to Armed Merchant Ships.

The Austrian notice of intention to treat armed belligerent merchant ships as subject to attack without warning was received today by the State Department from Ambassador Penfield, in Vienna. It is dated February 10 and is in line with the German declaration of intent to sink without warning its ships. Its text was published in The Star last week.

100 Per Cent Dividend Declared.

DETROIT, February 17.—The directors of the Continental Motor Manufacturing Company have increased the capital stock of the company from \$2,000,000 to \$5,000,000. A stock dividend of 100 per cent was declared.



MEMOROS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON AND MOUNT VERNON

For years they have been treasured by a Virginian who is fifth in direct descent from Maj. Lawrence Lewis and his wife, Nellie Custis. For the first time photographs and descriptions of them will be published. Read this important article in The Sunday Star.

gla to the vacancy on the Court of Claims bench.

Representative Adamson of Georgia conferred with the President about legislation before the House committee on interstate and foreign commerce, of which Mr. Adamson is chairman. Mr. Adamson told the President that his committee is carrying up its work as fast as possible.

Senator Kern asked the President to speak in Indianapolis March 1 at a religious gathering there. Representative Carlin talked with the President for a short time.

Senator Wadsworth discussed a court-martial case with the President, seeking clemency for a constituent.

PAYNE OR DELANO MAY GO IN CABINET

President Said to Be Hunting Middle West Lawyer for Secretary of War.

LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR ASSISTANT GROWS

Bibb Graves of Alabama and Lawrence Young of North Carolina Are Suggested.

Whatever progress President Wilson is making toward selecting a Secretary of War is under cover, and at the White House today there were no hints as to the probable nominee. As the President is hunting a first-class lawyer from the middle west, there have been added to the list of names he is supposed to be considering those of John Barton Payne of Chicago, and Frederic A. Delano, also of Chicago, vice governor of the federal reserve board.

Candidates for assistant secretary of war continued to be laid before the President. Senators Underwood and Bankhead and members of the House from Alabama called on President Wilson today and recommended Bibb Graves, chairman of the democratic executive committee of Alabama, former adjutant general of Alabama, Senators Simmons and Overman called to recommend the nomination of Lawrence Young, adjutant general of the North Carolina National Guard. The North Carolina senators also told the President that they would prevent his going to Charleston, N. C., May 20, to attend the annual meeting of the Southern States Association, to be formally invited to speak at this celebration.

Boost Representative Edwards.

Representatives Walker and Bell of Georgia urged the President to nominate Representative Edwards of Georgia.

ESCAPE DEATH AS CARS FALL DOWN STEEP BANK

Several Passengers Injured on Seaboard Florida Limited Are Residents of Washington.

RICHMOND, Va., February 17.—The Seaboard Air Line's Florida Limited, No. 10, northbound at high speed, was wrecked at Kingsland bridge, while running through Bellwood plantation, at 10:29 o'clock this morning.

The engine tender jumped the track, ripping a gap in the rails and ties which threw four coaches down a steep bank.

Reports from the scene state that by a miracle no one was killed, but that fourteen persons were badly injured, others less seriously. The injured were sent to Richmond hospitals.

Washingtonians Hurt.

Following is a list of those injured at all seriously in the wreck:

Dr. Theron Langford of Ann Arbor, Mich., severe lacerations of the face and bruises.

Mrs. Katrena Langford, wife of Dr. Langford, cut and bruised about the legs, suffering from shock.

Malcolm Langford, nine-year-old son of Dr. and Mrs. Langford, slightly bruised about the head.

Harvey L. Blanton, baggage-master, Richmond, cut about the head.

Mrs. W. M. Collins, Cleveland, Ohio, right arm wrenched; suffering from shock.

David E. Drake, Newark, N. J., injured about the head.

W. A. Martin, Houston, Me., severe lacerations of the face and head and injuries to back.

J. E. Naylor, Washington, D. C., injuries to the left shoulder.

Benjamin Chase, Washington, D. C., finger mangled.

Hubert Lanier, colored, New York, a plaster cast on lacerations of the head and broken finger.

One male passenger who suffered slight bruise on the head and injuries to his right arm was refused.

I. C. C. Officers Investigating.

A. M. Ranks and Daniel F. Johnson, inspectors for the interstate commerce commission, who were in Richmond on other business, went this afternoon to the scene of the wreck to investigate.

An agent of the Virginia corporation commission already had begun an inquiry.

The train was in charge of Conductor L. W. Wadsworth of Raleigh and Engineer W. J. Lowry of Richmond.

C. G. Wilson of Petersburg, one of the first men who saw the wreck, said: "The train seemed to be going sixty miles an hour when the accident occurred. A rail, it is said, spread and dived the train. The engine remained on the track, the four following cars were thrown off, but the remaining cars stood up on the tracks with the engine."

"I was on an electric car coming from Petersburg, the two lines running close to each other at that point. We got to the place about three minutes after the accident. The passengers were still pinned in the cars and those on the electric at once went to their rescue."

"Two of the cars were smashed to pieces. They were just like so much kindling. The others were not damaged so greatly. Windows were smashed and the glass and other debris was strewn all about the wreck."

"We did our best, and finally got all in sight out of the wreck."

"When the wrecking crew got there, about twenty minutes after the wreck, our car left for Richmond."

WHY YOU ARE ROBBED

Do you know, Madam, that you are the burglar's best friend?

You're always careful to carry your money in your hand where he can reach it without straining himself.

You leave a note for him under the door mat, telling him just where to find the key.

You pull down the front shades when you are going out so as to signal to him that the house is empty.

Read "Why You Are Robbed," by Commissioner Woods of the New York police. It tells you what to do and what not to do.

In the next

KAISER WILL OFFER HUGE LOAN TO RUMANIA

LONDON, February 17.—A Berlin dispatch, according to the Copenhagen correspondent of the Morning Post, says that the Duke of Mecklenburg has left for Bucharest as the German emperor's envoy to offer Rumania a loan of £12,000,000.

ZEPPELIN IS WRECKED IN HOLLAND BY STORM

LONDON, February 17.—A Rotterdam dispatch to the Daily Mail says that during yesterday's storm a Zeppelin was blown adrift, apparently from Belgium, and wrecked at Blerik, near Venlo, where it was seized and interned by the authorities.

WHITMAN BLOCKS ROOT ENDORSEMENT

Action of New York Governor Puts New Phase on Move Favoring Former Senator.

NAMES JUSTICE HUGHES AS CHOICE FOR PRESIDENT

Republicans in Congress Intensely Interested in Situation Due to New York Convention.

Republicans in Congress were intensely interested today in the situation growing out of the attempted endorsement for the presidency of Elihu Root by the New York republican convention, and the subsequent proposal, which appears to be hanging fire, to have him endorsed by three of the four delegates at large to the national convention.

The convention chose as delegates at large to the national convention United States Senator Wadsworth, Judge Elton R. Brown, and Frederick C. Tanner and Gov. Whitman. According to accounts of the proceedings, the three first named delegates at large met at the Republican Club in New York yesterday and decided to issue a statement expressing their indorsement of Mr. Root.

Gov. Whitman has temporarily at least, blocked the latter proposition, and the whole Root propaganda is apparently "up in the air" for the time being. If Gov. Whitman maintains his present stand New York republicans here say that the contemplated effect of the indorsement of Root may be a flash in the pan.

The first move in the game was made before the committee on resolutions of the state convention, when it was proposed to have the convention indorse Mr. Root for the presidential nomination. This effort was blocked by the friends of Gov. Whitman, of Mr. Justice Hughes and of Col. Roosevelt.

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Conference With Governor Planned.

In the absence of Gov. Whitman, who was in Albany, it was decided, however, to postpone issuing the statement until a conference could be had with Gov. Whitman.

A dispatch, quoting Gov. Whitman, from Albany to the New York Times, published this morning, says: "Say for me that I shall go to Chicago in favor of nominating Justice Hughes for the presidency. I was convinced long ago that he was the best of the rank and file of the republican party, and I have had no reason to change my mind about it. He is the man to beat Wilson."

"If Mr. Tanner has written me asking for a conference, I shall be glad to meet him and the other gentlemen designated as delegates at large, either in Albany or New York."

Puts New Phase on Move.

This talking by Gov. Whitman, in the opinion of New Yorkers here, puts an entirely new phase upon the movement to indorse Mr. Root. As it is understood here, the object in indorsing Mr. Root was to block the interest in his behalf in the states which will soon hold primary conventions for the election of electors. The national convention, and also to kill off sentiment in New York state for Roosevelt, Hughes and Whitman.

It is generally thought by republicans here that such a move would have had the desired effect to no considerable degree, and would have resulted in a very formidable Root presidential boom.

If, however, Gov. Whitman persists in his refusal to join his three colleagues in the delegation at large in indorsing Mr. Root, it is believed that they will threaten to precipitate a row on the floor of the convention, a big question is raised as to the effectiveness of the effort to bring pressure to bear upon the primaries in favor of Mr. Root.

The action of Gov. Whitman in holding back from joining his colleagues in the proposed Root indorsement is expected to cause the resentment of William Barnes' part in attempting to humiliate him by pledging the delegates at large to the support of Root, and if he is instructed or unprompted, thus affording a fair field at Chicago for him-silf or for Justice Hughes.

TURKS ARE FLEEING AFTER CAPTURE OF ERZERUM BY RUSS

Estimated That Slavs Took 100,000 Men and More Than 1,000 Guns.

FORTRESS DEEMED VITAL AS A STRATEGIC CENTER

Seizure May Relieve Pressure on the British in Mesopotamia and Influence Persia.

LIBERATION FOR ARMENIANS

Moslem Forces Throughout Region Are Deemed in Jeopardy—Petrograd Elated by Great Success.

LONDON, February 17.—The capture of Erzerum by the Russians is regarded here as a feat of first importance, the fortress being in any campaign by Russia against Turkey, a dominating factor in military calculations, as it is the key to Armenia, both politically and from a military standpoint. Its retention by Russia is considered as meaning the liberation of the long-suffering Armenian race. The position is regarded such a vital strategic center that its capture, it is believed here, will relieve the pressure upon the British positions in Mesopotamia and have a profound effect on the hostile elements in Persia and besides put in jeopardy the Turkish forces throughout Armenia.

The fall of Erzerum is calculated to facilitate the capture of Trebizond, one week's march northward, and thus secure the Turkish gateway from Asia into Europe.

Official Announcement.

Official announcement of the fall of the city was made by Grand Duke Nicholas, who telegraphed the emperor as follows:

"God has granted the brave troops of the army of the Caucasus such great help that Erzerum has been taken, after five days of unprecedented assault. I am immeasurably happy to announce this victory to your imperial majesty."

The Russian official Messenger estimates the Turkish garrison at Erzerum, capture of which was announced yesterday, at 40,000 men. It is also estimated that more than 1,000 guns were captured. According to reports, there were 46 guns in the city, 274 in the central forts and 200 field guns at Erzerum.

City Was in Flames.

The last Russian official communication gives few details of the fighting around the fortress. In fact, it seems to have been dispatched before the actual capture was announced by Grand Duke Nicholas. A part of the city was in flames.

Gen. Judenich, the hero of this victory, made a masterly advance under adverse weather conditions. The Russians a month ago broke through the Turkish line on the Caucasus border, pushing eighty miles through the mountains. The Armenian population readily welcomed the Russian troops.

It is stated that the Russians had in getting their heavy guns into position for the final assault.

Petrograd Is Elated.

PETROGRAD, February 17, via London.—The fall of Erzerum, which had been confidently awaited since the news of the taking by the Russian forces of nine of the eighteen forts guarding the gateway to Asia Minor, is the cause of great elation in Petrograd, the capture of the fortress being a strategic importance in the Russian campaign in the Caucasus. And it will rapidly influence the Balkan campaign by relieving the pressure on the allies at Saloniki.

The conviction entertained by all Russian military observers that Erzerum would ultimately be forced to capitulate to the Russians, and that the remaining nine forts were of considerably less importance than those already in Russian hands, and could be easily flanked or even ignored in forcing the evacuation of the Turkish stronghold.

Plan of Defense Destroyed.

The taking of the first fort is believed to have destroyed the plan of defense, since the impregnability of Erzerum rested on the assumption of the German engineers who constructed the fortifications that the position was safe against assault from the south.

In spite of the intense cold and deep snow the Russians took the fortress by storm and dealt the Turks the first staggering blow. Having driven them from the city position, the Russian artillery broke through and flanked the other positions, which went like a house of cards, the result of the Russian onslaught exceeding all expectations.

Plentiful Supply of Munitions.

The Caucasian campaign derived great benefit from the Russian dogma-

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There is no indication that the instructions under which American port authorities are operating will be changed in the immediate future. The recent American circular note to the entente powers proposing disarmament of merchant ships is not regarded by State Department officials as in any way involving an abandonment by the United States of its contention that the belligerents should adhere to existing principles of international law in submarine warfare.

LONDON, February 17.—The chancellor of the exchequer, Reginald McKenna, has announced that the British national debt at the end of the financial year, March 31, will be £2,200,000,000.

Germany's gross war expenditure to the end of 1915 was more than £1,500,000,000.

Credits voted by France between the outbreak of the war to the end of December, 1915, were about £1,240,000,000, and for the first quarter of 1916, £300,000,000.

MURDERER NOW IN TRENCHES.

Head of Baff Assassins Corporal in Italian Army.

NEW YORK, February 17.—The chief accomplice and paymaster of the gang who murdered Barnett Baff, the independent poultry dealer who was shot, it is alleged, at the instigation of his competitors November 24, 1914, is now serving as a corporal in the Italian army, District Attorney Swann announced.

District Attorney Swann will communicate with the State Department at Washington and ask that arrangements be sought with the Italian government to have the man returned to the United States.

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